1. This action is in response to the amendment filed on 1/13/2011.
2. Claims 1, 3-13, 15, 18-28 have been amended.
3. Claims 2, 14, 16-17, have been canceled.
4. Claims 3 and 7 have been canceled (See Examiner's Amendment).
5. Claims 1, 4-6, 8-13, 15 and 18-28 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

6. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jeffrey C. Hood (Reg. No. 35198) on 2/28/11.

7. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

(1) Please change the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 15 as follows:

Traditionally, high level text-based programming languages have been used by programmers in writing application programs. Many different high level text-based programming languages exist, including BASIC, C, [[Java]] JAVA, FORTRAN, [[Pascal]] PASCAL, COBOL, ADA, APL, etc. Programs written in these high level text-based languages are translated to the machine language level by translators known as compilers or interpreters. The high level text-based programming languages in this level, as well as the assembly language level, are referred to herein as text-based programming environments.

(2) Please change the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 18 as follows:

To overcome the above shortcomings, various graphical programming environments now exist which allow a user to construct a graphical program or graphical diagram, also referred to as a block diagram. U.S. Patent Nos. 4,901,221; 4,914,568; 5,291,587; 5,301,301; and 5,301,336; among others, to Kodosky et al disclose a graphical programming environment which enables a user to easily and intuitively create a graphical program. Graphical programming environments such as that disclosed in Kodosky et al can be considered a higher and more intuitive way in which to interact with a computer. A graphically based programming environment can be represented at a level above text-based high level programming languages such as C, [[Basic]] BASIC, [[Java]] JAVA, etc.

(3) Please change the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 18 as follows:

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. [[_____]] 2003/0145280 (Serial No. 10/056,853) titled "Test Executive System Having XML Reporting Capabilities," filed January 25, 2002.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer accessible memory medium storing program instructions executable by a processor to:

receive from a requesting program a request to determine an invocation interface of a graphical program, wherein the invocation interface is usable to invoke execution of the graphical program, wherein the graphical program is stored on a first computer

system, wherein the requesting program executes on a second different computer system;

programmatically determine the invocation interface of the graphical program in response to the request, wherein programmatically determining the invocation interface includes programmatically determining one or more parameters that should be passed to the graphical program when invoking execution of the graphical program, wherein said programmatically determining the one or more parameters includes programmatically determining default values of the one or more parameters; and

return information specifying the invocation interface of the graphical program to the requesting program, wherein said returning includes returning information specifying the one or more parameters that should be passed to the graphical program, wherein the information specifying the one or more parameters includes information specifying the default values of the one or more parameters;

wherein the information specifying the invocation interface of the graphical program is useable by the requesting program to invoke execution of the graphical program.

2-3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer accessible memory medium of claim [[3]] 1,

wherein said programmatically determining the one or more parameters comprises programmatically determining data types of the one or more parameters; and

wherein said returning the information specifying the one or more parameters comprises returning information specifying the data types of the one or more parameters.

5. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer accessible memory medium of claim 4, further storing program instructions executable by a processor to:

generate data describing the data types of the parameters for invoking the graphical program;

wherein said returning the information specifying the data types of the parameters for invoking the graphical program comprises returning the data describing the data types.

6. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer accessible memory medium of claim 4, further storing program instructions executable by the processor to:

generate XML data describing the data types of the one or more parameters that should be passed to the graphical program when invoking execution of the graphical program;

wherein said returning the information specifying the data types of the one or more parameters comprises returning the XML data describing the data types.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer accessible memory medium of claim 1,

wherein said programmatically determining the invocation interface of the graphical program comprises programmatically analyzing one or more data structures representing the graphical program to determine the invocation interface of the graphical program.

9. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer accessible memory medium of claim 1,

wherein the graphical program comprises a plurality of interconnected nodes that visually indicate functionality of the graphical program.

10. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer accessible memory medium of claim 1,

wherein the graphical program comprises a graphical data flow program.

11. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer accessible memory medium of claim 1,

wherein the graphical program comprises a block diagram portion and a user interface portion.

12. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer accessible memory medium of claim 1,

wherein said receiving the request to determine the invocation interface of the graphical program comprises receiving an invocation of one of a method or a function.

13. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer accessible memory medium of claim 1,

wherein said receiving the request to determine the interface of the graphical program comprises receiving a message requesting the invocation interface of the graphical program.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer accessible memory medium storing program instructions, wherein the program instructions are stored on a first computer system, wherein the program instructions are executable by a processor to:

programmatically request information specifying an invocation interface of a graphical program, wherein the invocation interface is usable to invoke execution of the graphical program, wherein the graphical program is stored on a second computer system different from the first computer system, wherein requesting the information specifying the invocation interface includes requesting information specifying one or more parameters that should be passed to the graphical program when invoking execution of the graphical program, wherein said requesting the information specifying the one or more parameters includes requesting information specifying default values of the one or more parameters;

receive the information specifying the invocation interface of the graphical program in response to the request, wherein receiving the information specifying the invocation interface includes receiving the information specifying the one or more parameters that should be passed to the graphical program when invoking execution of the graphical program, wherein receiving the information specifying the one or more parameters includes receiving the information specifying the default values of the one or more parameters; and

invoke execution of the graphical program using the received information specifying the invocation interface of the graphical program, wherein said invoking includes passing the one or more parameters to the graphical program.

16-17. (Cancelled).

18. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer accessible memory medium of claim 15,

wherein said receiving the information specifying the one or more parameters comprises receiving information specifying data types of the one or more parameters; and

wherein said passing the one or more parameters to the graphical program comprises passing one or more parameters having the specified data types.

19. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer accessible memory medium of claim 15,

~~wherein said receiving the information specifying the one or more parameters comprises receiving information specifying default values of one or more of the parameters; and~~

wherein said passing the one or more parameters to the graphical program includes passing one or more parameters having the default values specified by the information.

20. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer accessible memory medium of claim 15,

wherein the graphical program comprises a plurality of interconnected nodes that visually indicate functionality of the graphical program.

21. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer accessible memory medium of claim 15,

wherein the graphical program comprises a graphical data flow program.

22. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer accessible memory medium of claim 15,

wherein said programmatically requesting the information specifying the invocation interface of the graphical program comprises calling one or more methods or one or more functions to request the information specifying the invocation interface of the graphical program.

23. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer accessible memory medium of claim 15,

wherein said programmatically requesting the information specifying the invocation interface of the graphical program comprises programmatically sending a message to request the information specifying the invocation interface of the graphical program.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

utilizing a computer to perform:

receiving from a requesting program a request to determine an invocation interface of a graphical program, wherein the invocation interface is usable to invoke execution of the graphical program, wherein the graphical program is stored on a first computer system, wherein the requesting program executes on a second different computer system;

programmatically determining the invocation interface of the graphical program in response to the request, wherein programmatically determining the invocation interface includes programmatically determining one or more parameters that should be passed to the graphical program when invoking execution of the graphical program, wherein said programmatically determining the one or more parameters includes programmatically determining default values of the one or more parameters; and

returning information specifying the invocation interface of the graphical program to the requesting program, wherein said returning includes returning information specifying the

one or more parameters that should be passed to the graphical program, wherein the information specifying the one or more parameters includes information specifying the default values of the one or more parameters;

wherein the information specifying the invocation interface of the graphical program is used by the requesting program to invoke execution of the graphical program.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, wherein the method is performed by a first computer system, the method comprising:

programmatically requesting information specifying an invocation interface of a graphical program, wherein the invocation interface is usable to invoke execution of the graphical program, wherein the graphical program is stored on a second computer system different from the first computer system, wherein requesting the information specifying the invocation interface includes requesting information specifying one or more parameters that should be passed to the graphical program when invoking execution of the graphical program, wherein said requesting the information specifying the one or more parameters includes requesting information specifying default values of the one or more parameters;

receiving the information specifying the invocation interface of the graphical program in response to the request, wherein receiving the information specifying the invocation interface includes receiving the information specifying the one or more parameters that should be passed to the graphical program when invoking execution of the graphical program, wherein receiving the information specifying the one or more parameters includes receiving the information specifying the default values of the one or more parameters; and

invoking execution of the graphical program using the received information specifying the invocation interface of the graphical program, wherein said invoking includes passing the one or more parameters to the graphical program.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

a test executive application programmatically requesting information specifying an invocation interface of a stored graphical program, wherein the invocation interface is usable to invoke execution of the graphical program, wherein requesting the information specifying the invocation interface includes requesting information specifying one or more parameters that should be passed to the graphical program when invoking execution of the graphical program, wherein said requesting the information specifying the one or more parameters includes requesting information specifying default values of the one or more parameters;

the test executive application receiving the information specifying the invocation interface of the graphical program in response to the request, wherein receiving the information specifying the invocation interface includes receiving the information specifying the one or more parameters that should be passed to the graphical program when invoking execution of the graphical program, wherein receiving the information specifying the one or more parameters includes receiving the information specifying the default values of the one or more parameters; and

the test executive application invoking execution of the graphical program using the received information specifying the invocation interface of the graphical program, wherein said invoking includes passing the one or more parameters to the graphical program.

27. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

one or more processors;

memory storing program instructions;

wherein the program instructions stored in the memory are executable by the one or more processors to:

receive from a requesting program a request to determine an invocation interface of a graphical program, wherein the invocation interface is usable to invoke execution of the graphical program, wherein the graphical program is stored on a first computer system, wherein the requesting program executes on a second different computer system;

programmatically determine the invocation interface of the graphical program in response to the request, wherein programmatically determining the invocation interface includes programmatically determining one or more parameters that should be passed to the graphical program when invoking execution of the graphical program, wherein said programmatically determining the one or more parameters includes programmatically determining default values of the one or more parameters; and

return information specifying the invocation interface of the graphical program to the requesting program, wherein said returning includes returning information specifying the one or more parameters that should be passed to the graphical program, wherein the information specifying the one or more parameters includes information specifying the default values of the one or more parameters;

wherein the information specifying the invocation interface of the graphical program is useable by the requesting program to invoke execution of the graphical program.

28. (Currently Amended) A first computer system comprising:

one or more processors;

memory storing program instructions;

wherein the program instructions stored in the memory are executable by the one or more processors to:

programmatically request information specifying an invocation interface of a graphical program, wherein the invocation interface is usable to invoke execution of the graphical program, wherein the graphical program is stored on a second computer system different from the first computer system, wherein requesting the information specifying the invocation interface includes requesting information specifying one or more parameters that should be passed to the graphical program when invoking execution of the graphical program, wherein said requesting the information specifying the one or more parameters includes requesting information specifying default values of the one or more parameters;

receive the information specifying the invocation interface of the graphical program in response to the request, wherein receiving the information specifying the invocation interface includes receiving the information specifying the one or more parameters that should be passed to the graphical program when invoking execution of the graphical program, wherein receiving the information specifying the one or more parameters includes receiving the information specifying the default values of the one or more parameters; and

invoke execution of the graphical program using the received information specifying the invocation interface of the graphical program, wherein said invoking includes passing the one or more parameters to the graphical program.

REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

8. The following is an examiner's statement of reason for allowance:

The cited prior art taken alone or in combination fail to teach, in combination with the other claimed limitations, a method of programmatically determine the invocation interface of the graphical program in response to a request, wherein programmatically determining the invocation interface includes programmatically determining one or more parameters that should be passed to the graphical program when invoking execution of

the graphical program, programmatically determining the one or more parameters includes programmatically determining default values of the one or more parameters; as recited in the independent claims 1, 15, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chameli Das whose telephone number is 571-272-3696. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M and 7:30 P.M – 9:30 P.M (E.T).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor Tuan Dam can be reached at 571-272-3695. The fax number for this group is (571) 273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866) 217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call (800) 786-9199 (in the USA or Canada) or (571) 272-1000.

/CHAMELI C. DAS/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2192

Dated: 3/2/11